SHRI C. PERUMAL: Sir, thoug[illegible]pplementary is not related to the main question ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has to relate to the question.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: Sir, both of us are from Tamil Nadu. Sir, it is my farewell supplementary. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. *(Interruptions)* On that ground, ask it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: Thank you, Sir. Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister: Is there my proposal pending with the Government for conversion of the following State Highways into National Highways in Tamil Nadu, namely, i) Salem to Vaniyambadi via Uthangarai and Thiruppattur, ii) Bhawani to Toppur, iii) Hogenekkal to Vaniyambadi via Dharmapuri-Pochampalli Mattur and Thiruppattur, and, iv) Adiyamankottai to Hosur via Palakonda, Royakkotai.

Sir, the other question is: when will the four-lane road start on NH-66 between Krishnagiri to Pondicherry?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: You want me to answer this question. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the extent you can. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: You are from Tamil Nadu. I am from Tamil Nadu. You please give me the answer. *(Interruptions)* Sir, he is having the answers on his fingertips. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As this is a general question, please answer it generally. Then, we can move on to the next. *(Interruptions)* Please Mr. Perumal.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, my friend wants to know whether some of the stretches will be taken up for four-lane roads. But I want to answer to the whole House that wherever the traffic density exceeds more than fifteen thousand PCU, we will take up all the roads to develop them into four lane roads, in due course, in the entire nation; not in Tamil Nadu only. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Forest cover area in India

*303. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:††
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest covered area in India at the beginning of the First Plan, and its present up-dated status, and in what manner does it match with the targets fixed under the national Forest Policy and its break-up into dense forest, open forest and scrub forest etc;

(b) the amount of funds (Central and State) spent for improving and extending forest cover since first plan and what has been achieved so far, till-date;

(c) the average expense per sq. km. of additional forest cover thus achieved; and

(d) in above context, the corresponding statistics for Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) A Statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania.

Statement

(a) At the time of beginning of the First Five Year Plan (1951) no accurate data on assessment of forest cover was available. However, on the basis of the land-use pattern about 40.48 m. hac (i.e. 14.24%) was reported to be under forest land-use in 1951. The first scientific assessment of forest cover was made by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and published in the State of Forest Report (SFR) 1987. The most recent assessment, SFR-2005, has been published in 2008. The forest cover figures in the said two assessment reports are given below:

(*Area in km²*)

Assessment	Dense Forest		Open Forest		Total		Scrub	
Year	area	%	area	%	area	%	area	%
1987*	3,64,762	11.10	2,76,057	8.40	6,40,819	19.49	76,614	2.33
2005	3,87,216	11.78	2,89,872	8.82	6,77,088	20.60	38,475	1.17

* Revised

The National Forest Policy 1988 aims at bringing 33% of the country's land area under forest or tree cover. The XI Plan envisages to achieve 30% forest or tree cover by 2012.

(b) The information on the amount of funds (Central and State) spent for improving and extending forest cover since first plan and on what has been achieved so far is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

c) As per the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) of India 1999, the average cost of Forest Cover expansion comes to Rs. 28.00 lakh per sq. km. However, the actual cost of plantation and protection of planted area varies greatly from place to place and depends upon factors like the site of plantation, the soil and climatic conditions, biotic pressures, etc.

(d) The figures for forest cover of Rajasthan as per the first assessment in 1987 and in the last assessment (2005) made by the FSI are given below:

(*Area in km²*)

Assessment	Dense Forest		Open Forest		Total		Scrub	
Year	area	%	area	%	area	%	area	%
1987	3116	0.91	9642	2.82	12758	3.73	-	0.00
2005	4470	1.31	11380	3.33	15850	4.63	4527	1.32

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for putting forth a very detailed statement, which does not give answer to the specific queries raised. Sir, forests are lungs of the nation. Sir, in 1951, the forest cover was 14.2 per cent of the total land cover. Now, in 2005, it was only 11.78 per cent. The decrease is alarming and the Centre as well as the State Government should accept some day that we don't have sufficient forest cover. I never find in any reply acceptance of this fact that forest cover is in danger, and, we should recognize it and take steps to put it on proper track.

During eighteen years, your honour, Sir, the only increase has been from 19.4 per cent to 20.6 per cent only. It is a negligible increase. Sir, according to this answer, our aim is to

bring it up to 33 per cent of the country's land area. At this speed, this may not be achieved in fifty years' time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, my point is that it should be specifically recognized that we have moved at a snail's pace regarding progress in forest cover, and, during the last eighteen years, there has been no progress whatsoever. And, whatever progress was there in 1951, it has been very badly depleted from 14.2 per cent dense forest cover to 11.78 per cent. Sir, this is an alarming situation which should be accepted. If we accept it, only then, we can go ahead to take steps to improve it.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, there is no decline in it. Regarding the forest cover, I want to say that we have only 2.4 per cent of the geographical area of the world. Yet it supports 17 per cent of the world's human population. Likewise, we have the largest cattle population, which is 19 per cent, in the world. Our forests are subject to heavy biotic pressure. Because most of our population depends upon firewood, our cattle mostly graze in forests. We are also diverting our forest land for the development purposes as our mission is to make India a developed nation. At the same time, I want to remind you that as per the 2005 report, our forest cover and tree cover, is 23.39 per cent. If you compare it with 1987, it is only an increasing trend.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. There was a special scheme sponsored under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme with effect from the Tenth Five-Year Plan. What has been achieved under that so far?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, under the Integrated Forest Scheme, we are giving money to the concerned States, and they are looking after it. Forests come under the Concurrent List. The Central Government and the State Governments both are entrusted with this job. But the development, protection and everything is with the State Forest Departments. They are doing it.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, this is not the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, this is just like begging the reply. He should be able to tell me the statistics. He could have collected it from the States. I think that he will accept that in Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar, and Manipur ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: These statistics can be made available to the hon. Member.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, my specific question, which has not been replied, was: Does the Central Government accept the liability regarding decreasing forest cover?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that has been answered.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, there is no significant decrease in the forest cover. Under the National Afforestation Programme and the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, in the 9th Plan, the amount was Rs. 401 crore. Under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Rs. 76.47 crore has been spent. Then in the 10th Plan, Rs. 1176.29 crore have been provided, and under the Integrated Protection Scheme, Rs. 204 crore have been spent. And in the first year of the 11th Plan, Rs. 392.25 crore and Rs. 67.6 have been allotted.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं और यह उनकी जानकारी में भी होगा कि जो विदेशी मूल की वनस्पतियों को वृक्षारोपण के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है, उसमें पूरी सफलता नहीं मिलती। इसलिए मेरा सवाल है कि वन विकास हेतु जो वृक्षारोपण किया गया, उसमें indigenous और exotic varieties, इनके आरोपण का क्या अनुपात रहा, उसकी आनुपातिक लागत क्या रही और उसका आनुपातिक survival rate क्या रहा, कृपया इसे बताने का कष्ट करें?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, cultivation comes under the States, and they will look after it.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, इसका जवाब नहीं आया। यह क्या जवाब आया? मैंने आपसे निश्चित रूप से कहा कि विदेशी मूल की वनस्पतियां, जिनका वृक्षारोपण में उपयोग किया जाता है, वह निरर्थक हो रहा है। मैंने यही सवाल किया कि इसके आरोपण का क्या अनुपात था, लागत का क्या अनुपात था और survival rate का क्या अनुपात है, वे कृपया बताएं?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Would the hon. Minister reply?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, on this issue of plants, I will collect the information from the concerned States and then we will give it.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHIING: Sir, as I am retiring today, this is my last supplementary. My State, Meghalaya, has about 79 ancient sacred forests. Some of them are about 700-1000 years old. These sacred forests are crucial to maintaining the ecological balance of the whole Himalayan foothills and this is one of the reasons why Cherrapunji and Mausingram regions have the heaviest rainfall in the world. My honoured colleagues, Madam Nirmala Deshpande and Dr. Arjun Sengupta, have been to one of these sacred forests. Sir, can the Government give any categorical assurance to this House that in view of the national importance of these sacred forests, financial assistance will be extended to the local tribal kingdoms who have maintained these old sacred forests at great selfless sacrifice to themselves?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, we are giving financial assistance under Project Tiger and other schemes. It is a specific question, but, we are giving financial assistance under the National Afforestation Programme and Integrated Forest Protection Scheme. We are giving assistance only under these two schemes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, a programme called Joint Forest Management was launched long back. Sir, the main intention of that programme was people's participation in protecting the forests. Sir, has any impact study been done on this programme? If yes, what is the improvement in the forest cover? If not, will the Government come forward to have a study on that programme?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, at present, more than one lakh joint forest management committees are involved in the work.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, my question was whether any impact study has been done on the programme.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Yes.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: If yes, what is the result? Whether there is any improvement.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Yes. Under the Joint Forest Management Scheme, now, one lakh committees are functioning. They are developing the villages. And, subsequently, with local people and forest officials, we are developing forests.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Sir, in Maharashtra, region like Vidarbha has protected good forest cover. My question is: What extra benefits Ministry of Environment and Forest has planned to give to such regions and has it been reflected in your Budget? If not, do you promise to take corrective measures?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, no extra allocation is there. Only under the planning schemes, we are giving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 304.

सुश्री मैबल रिबैलो: सर, आप इस साइड ध्यान नहीं देते ...(**व्यवधान**)... हम लोग यहां बैठे हैं। हम रोज हाथ ऊंचा करते हैं, लेकिन हमें कुछ नहीं मिलता ...(**व्यवधान**)...

*304. [The questioner(s) *(SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA AND PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA), were absent.* For answer *vide* page. 12]

खाद्यान्नों पर पर्यावरण का प्रभाव

*305. **श्री भगवती सिंह:**
श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी:††

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पर्यावरणीय संकट के कारण जलवायु परिवर्तन से देश के खाद्यान्न उत्पादन पर असर पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार पर्यावरण एवं वन संरक्षण हेतु कोई कारगर योजना बना रही है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नमो नारायण मीणा): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (आई सी ए आर) कृषि मंत्रालय के अनुसार देश में खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन में घट बढ़ होने के कोई निश्चित प्रमाण देखने में नही आए हैं क्योंकि जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधी प्रक्रिया धीमी होती है और इसके प्रभाव अनेक दशकों तक अनुभव किए जाते हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अंतर सरकारी पैनल की चौथी मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रत्याशित परिवर्तनों के कारण खाद्यान्न उत्पादन पर विश्व के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रभाव पड़ेगा। इंडियाज फर्स्ट नेशनल कम्यूनिकेशन टू द यूनाइटेज नेशन्स फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन आन क्लाइमेट चेंज तैयार करने के समय कृषि पर इसके प्रारंभिक प्रत्याशित प्रभावों के प्रारंभिक मूल्यांकन के अनुसार समूचे क्षेत्रों में विभिन्न फसलों के उत्पादन से मिलीजुली प्रत्याशा की गई है और अभी तक इसका कोई निश्चित रुझान स्थापित नहीं हो पाया है।

(ख) और (ग) भारत सरकार ने भारत पर मानवजनित जलवायु परिवर्तनों के प्रभावों का अध्ययन करने तथा उन उपायों की पहचान करने, जोकि हमें मानवजनित जलवायु प्रभावों के प्रति संवेदनशीलता से निपटने के लिए भविष्य में करने पड़ सकते हैं, हेतु एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया था।

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†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी द्वारा पूछा गया।